

NEW AND INTERESTING LIZARDS IN COLOMBO MUSEUM.

By N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc.

(Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum.)

THANKS to Dr. A. Willey I have lately had an opportunity of examining the Lizards in the collection of the Colombo Museum, the specimens in which are, without exception, from Ceylon. Notes on many of them have been published in Mr. A. Haly's "Report on the Collection of Reptilia and Batrachia in the Colombo Museum" (1891); but several additions have been made more recently, while a re-examination of some specimens has had interesting results, the most important of which is the establishment of a new genus for the reception of Nevill's *Euprepes halianus*.* Another new Skink is also described.

GECKONIDÆ.

GYMNODACTYLUS NEBULOSUS, Bedd.

The collection contains a half-grown specimen of this species from a locality 18 miles north of Kandy (see A. Haly, Administration Report, Colombo Museum, 1900). Boulenger records another Ceylonese example in the British Museum; but the species, common in some parts of Southern India, must be rare in Ceylon.

GYMNODACTYLUS FRENATUS, Gthr.

An examination of the two males and two females in the collection enables me to point out a peculiarity of the adult male which is possibly assumed at the breeding season and is quite absent in the female. The ventral surface of the base of the tail is swollen in the former sex, and there are two large closely adjacent papillæ close behind the opening of the penis on each side.

* H. Nevill. Taprobanian, II., 1887, p. 56; also Boulenger, Reptiles, Fauna Brit. India, 1890, p. 213.

AGAMIDÆ.

CALOTES OPHIOMACHUS, Merr.

Judging from a young specimen from Kandy in the collection and from an adult lately captured by myself in Colombo, the "two groups of spines on each side of the head" noted by Boulenger may be united into a single series.

SCINCIDÆ.

MABUIA BIBRONII (Gray).

Though Boulenger only records this species from the Carnatic in the "Fauna," it is probably not uncommon in some parts of Ceylon, whence there are several specimens in the Colombo Museum which I have re-examined (see Haly's Report on Reptilia, &c., Colombo, 1891, p. 14, where the species is recorded from Mullaittivu).

LYGOSOMA MEGALOPS, sp. nov.

Sub-genus *Keneuxia*, Gray (see G. A. Boulenger, Catalogue of the Lizards in the British Museum, Second Edition, vol. III., 1887, pp. 210 and 214).

Habit lacertiform; length from snout to fore-limb contained about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in the length from axilla to groin; limbs well developed, pentadactyle, overlapping when adpressed; snout short, obtusely pointed; eye large; diameter of orbit as great as length of snout; distance from orbit to ear-opening much longer than snout; ear-opening much smaller than eye, circular, without denticulations.

Rostral much broader than deep, forming a straight suture with the frontonasal; no supranasals; nasal undivided. Frontal nearly as long as the frontoparietals and the interparietal together; interparietal completely separating the parietals; no distinct nuchals. Four large, subequal supraoculars; seven or eight superciliaries; six upper and five lower labials. Dorsals and laterals smooth, ventrals feebly keeled; body scales subequal, imbricate, in twenty-four to twenty-six rows round the body; anals and caudals not enlarged; no enlarged scale on the heel; middle toe with twelve to fourteen subdigital plates. Colour almost uniform dark brown. Length of head and body, 2 inches; length of tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Localities.—One specimen from Puttalam; another from Kitulgala.

THECONYX, gen. nov.

Limbs well developed, pentadactyle ; claws retractile ; other characters as in *Lygosoma*. This new genus is intermediate between *Lygosoma* and *Ristella*, from the latter of which it differs in having five digits on each foot and in the other points which separate the former genus from the latter, except as regards the claws.

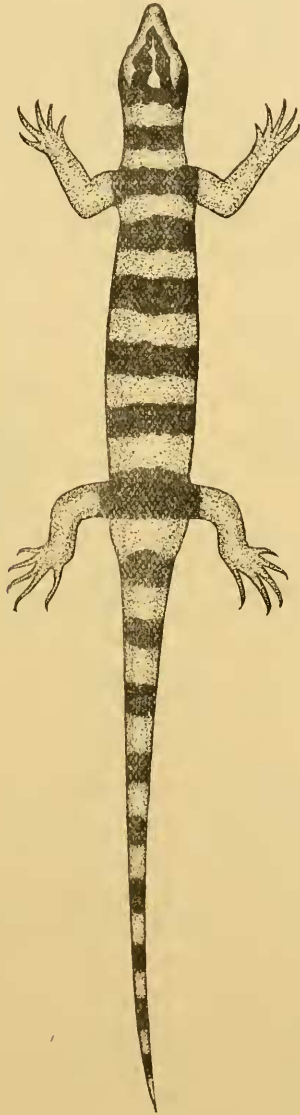


Fig. 1.—Young *Theconyx halianus* showing general form and coloration, from above. $\times 3$.

THECONYX HALIANUS (Nevill).

As the description of this species drawn up by Haly and published by Nevill, who gave it its name (*Euprepes halianus*), is not very clear, I have based the following diagnosis on three specimens in the Colombo Museum.

Habit lacertiform, rather stout; limbs approaching one another or slightly overlapping when adpressed; tail cylindrical, of the same length as the head and body. Tympanum as small as nostril, deeply sunk. No postnasal; a narrow supranasal which does not meet its fellow; rostral much broader than deep; frontal three times as long as broad, much longer than interparietal, from which it is completely separated: four large supraoculars, seven or eight superciliaries; no distinct nuchals. Lower eyelid scaly; body scales large, imbricate; dorsals with three or five indistinct keels; laterals smooth; twenty-four scale round the body; anals slightly enlarged.

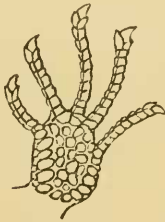


Fig. 2.—Left hand from below.
× about 4.

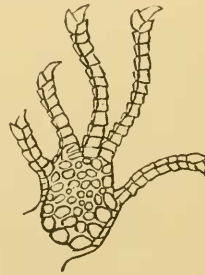


Fig. 3.—Left foot from below.
× about 4.



Fig. 4.—Claw. × 12.

Coloration.—Dorsal surface olive (yellow in young) with six or seven dark transverse bars on the body which are narrower than the interspaces, and eight or nine on the tail. These are much more conspicuous in the young than in the adult and equal to the interspaces. Head variously marked with olive and dark brown. Ventral surface dirty yellow. Length of head and body $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch: length of tail $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Localities.—In addition to Nevill's types (an adult from the Western Province and a young specimen from Anuradhapura) the Colombo Museum possesses a third example (half-grown) from Horana, collected and presented by G. H. Swayne, Esq., 8th November, 1901. It is this specimen I have measured, as the tail is injured in the adult, which is at least twice as large.

STALKED BARNACLES (CIRRIPEDIA PEDUNCULATA) IN THE COLOMBO MUSEUM.

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AMONG the Cirripedes in the Colombo Museum I have been able to identify the following :—(1) *Lepas anserifera*, Linn., the commonest pedunculate form on floating objects in this part of the Indian Ocean ; (2) *Dichelaspis pellucida*, Darwin, a somewhat scarce species only taken on sea-snakes ; and (3) *Dichelaspis equina*, Lanchester, which was not described until about three years ago [Lanchester, P. Zool. Soc., London, 1902 (2), p. 375] but appears to be common on shallow-water crabs of the east coast of India as well as in some parts of Malaya.

The specimens of *L. anserifera* are attached in dense masses to pieces of wood and to a bottle ; those of *D. pellucida* are scattered on the body of a sea-snake (*Hydrus platurus*) ; while *D. equina* is represented by numerous individuals crowded together on the posterior walking legs and carapace of a *Dorippe dorsipes* (Linn.), and by others scattered on the dorsal and ventral surfaces and mouth parts of *Scylla serrata* (Forsk.).

The distribution of *L. anserifera* is world-wide. So far as I am aware, neither species of *Dichelaspis* has been reported hitherto from the immediate neighbourhood of Ceylon. *D. equina* was described from the east coast of the Malay Peninsula, while *D. pellucida* is an Oriental species which probably has a fairly extensive distribution.

DICHELASPIS TENUIVALVATA, sp. nov.

Diagnosis.

Capitulum compressed ; carinal edge rounded ; occludent edge sinuous, slanting outwards from above ; lower edge straight, horizontal ; opening large. Five imperfectly calcified plates ; carina not reaching the upper edge of the capitulum above.